Children’s Safety

Why in news?

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Humanitarian Aid Organisation’s survey reports that one out of every two Indian children has experienced sexual abuse.

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What are the reasons behind increasing Child abuse?

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- In large cities, children spend as many as 8 to 9 hours a day away from home, and those in smaller towns and rural areas spend 5 to 6 hours outside the home.
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- There is a three-way trust deficit between schools, parents and the Government, especially when there is a gruesome incidence of violence against children, gets aggravated.
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What measures needs to be taken in schools?

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- An open dialogue involving all three stakeholders will go a long way towards to enable the building preventive response mechanisms.
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- There is a need to develop a Uniform Child Protection Policy for all schools private or government, and even tribal ashrams in remote parts of the country.
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- The policy should emphasise on ‘gatekeeping’ to ensure that the recruitment of both teaching and non-teaching staff is done after thorough police verification and psycho-social assessment.
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- Also trained counsellors must be enrolled mandatorily in schools who can both prevent and detect abuse of children.
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- All teachers need to be sensitised about child abuse, taught to recognise it and made aware of laws such as the POCSO Act .
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- Awareness Sessions for children on safety and prevention of abuse also ought to become part of the curriculum.
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What are the Existing child abuse preventive mechanisms?

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- **National Policy for Children, 2013** - recognises every person below the age of eighteen years as a child and covers all children within the territory and jurisdiction of the country.
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- Four key priority areas in Policy are
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1. Survival, Health and Nutrition.
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2. Education and Development.
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3. Protection and Participation.
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4. Focused Attention
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- **Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act 2012 -** It protects children from offenses of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and pornography and to provide a child-friendly system for the trial of these offences.
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- **Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Amendment Act 2015**
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Source: Business Line

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